Committee to monitor sex ratio in Punjab

2052. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Committee to inspect and check the declining sex ratio, especially in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) A National Support and Monitoring Cell is being set up for strengthening the capabilities of Appropriate Authorities appointed under the Preconception & Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act, 1994. The eel! would help in putting a mechanism in place so that actual wrong doers who are committing female foeticide or abetting female foeticide are apprehended by the Appropriate Authorities. The cell would network with the Appropriate Authorities in the State and step up successful "sting operations" by the Appropriate Authorities to nab the actual wrong doers. Initially, the Cell would focus on the states where the problem is more serious including the state of Punjab.

Reasons for exempting Kerala from NRHM

2053. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States in the country which have proposed to launch the "National Rural Health Mission" and the reasons for exempting Kerala from launching such projects; and

(b) whether the Government of Kerala has sought the intervention of Government for implementing the NHRM project in the State; and if so, whether Government would consider to include Kerala in the priority list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has been launched in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for the entire country, including Kerala. The Mission, however, has special focus on 18 states with weak health infrastructure and demographic indicators. Kerala is not one of the high focus states.